

REMARKS

Claim 1 and other claims have been amended to be consistent and to make all subsequent claims dependent upon claim 1. Certain features have also been added or changed in the interest of comprehensive coverage.

As required to do, Applicant has provisionally made an election, but with traverse.

It is believed that most of the claims belong to a single invention for examination purposes. The present amendment is submitted to clarify that this is true.

As previously presented, independent claim 1 (Group I), independent claims 28, 88, 95 and 99 (Group II) and independent claim 102 (Group III) all related to a suspension device for use with a container. None of these claims required presence of a container or a rack. In all of those claims, the suspension device was constructed to be united with a container to form a package unit, to enable display or transport of the container. It was thought that those claims, as previously written, belonged to a single invention for examination purposes. In any event, in view of the present amendment they are submitted to fall in the same group for examination.

Certain other claims call for combination of the suspension device with a container (see previous dependent claims 73-75 and previously independent claim 112). However, note that the suspension device of the original claims, claims 1, 28 and 102 for instance, has no purpose other than for use with a container. When unamended, claims 73-75 and 112 are submitted to have been, and as now amended, are submitted to be, proper for examination with claims directed to the suspension device alone (i.e. before it is combined with a container).

Certain further dependent claims call for a display rack, i.e. dependent claims 68-72. Claims 68-70 cover aspects that are submitted to merely define a condition of use made possible by the subject of prior claims to the suspension device or define further features of the suspending device. Claims 71 and 72 do describe particular features of the rack. Applicant agrees to restrict claims 71 and 72 from examination.

Because of issues raised, a telephone conference with the Examiner is requested.

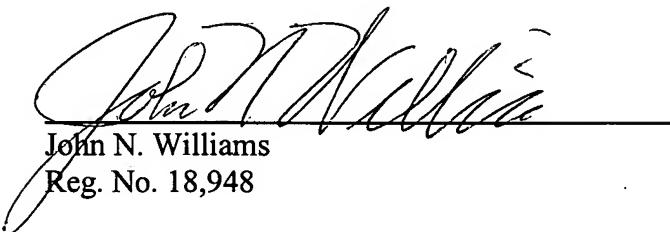
Applicant : Jeffrey T. Mannion et al.
Serial No. : 10/052,210
Filed : January 16, 2002
Page : 15 of 15

Attorney's Docket No.: 11578-006001

Enclosed is a \$795.00 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3-21-05



John N. Williams
Reg. No. 18,948

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110-2804
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906

21048455.doc